

Appl. No. 10/024,783
Final Amendment and/or Response
Reply to final Office action of 23 November 2005

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17, and 21-28 are pending in the application.

The Office action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Hu et al. (USP 5,846,666, hereinafter Hu). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner's attention is requested to MPEP 2131, wherein it is stated:

"A claim is anticipated only if *each and every element* as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The *identical invention* must be shown in as *complete detail* as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claim 1, upon which claims 4, 5, and 8 depend, claims an electroluminescent device that includes a pattern-wise ink-jet printed electrode atop an electroluminescent layer on a substrate, the electrode comprising a metal or a metal alloy that is ink-jet printed in a molten form.

Hu fails to teach a pattern-wise ink-jet printed electrode atop an electroluminescent layer on a substrate, the electrode comprising a metal or a metal alloy that is ink-jet printed in a molten form. Hu specifically teaches that the metal electrodes are created using a vacuum deposition process. As taught by the applicants, the ink-jet printing of an electrode provides a characteristic natural-shape to the electrodes (applicants' page 2, lines 24-34, and FIG. 1). Hu's electrodes will not exhibit this shape, and therefore will not be identical to the applicants' claimed invention, as required by MPEP 2131.

Because Hu fails to teach each of the elements of claim 1, the applicants respectfully maintain that the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Hu is unfounded, per MPEP 2131.

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The Office action rejects:

claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hu and Yudasaka et al. (USP 6,541,918, hereinafter Yudasaka); and

claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hu and Sturm et al. (USP 6,087,196, hereinafter Sturm).

The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner's attention is requested to MPEP 2142, wherein it is stated:

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness ... the prior art reference (or references when combined) *must teach or suggest all the claim limitations*... If the examiner does not produce a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to submit evidence of nonobviousness."

In each of these rejections, the Office action relies upon Hu for teaching the elements of claim 1, upon which each of these claims depend.

Because Hu fails to teach each of the elements of claim 1, the applicants respectfully maintain that the rejections of claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), which rely on Hu for teaching the elements of claim 1, are unfounded per MPEP 2142.

The Office action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii et al. (USP 6,053,791, hereinafter Fujii). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 10 claims a method of manufacturing an electroluminescent device that includes ink-jet printing molten metal or metal alloy in accordance with a desired pattern such that, upon cooling of the molten metal or metal alloy, the metal or metal alloy electrode is formed.

Fujii does not teach printing molten metal or metal alloy such that upon cooling, a metal or metal alloy electrode is formed. The Office action references Fujii's Example 3 for teaching all of the elements of claim 10, but fails to specifically identify elements corresponding to each of the applicants' claimed limitation. The applicants note that, in Example 3, Fujii specifically teaches that the electrodes are formed by offset-printing techniques and the wires are formed by screen printing. Fujii's ink-jet printing is limited to providing droplets of an aqueous solution of organic Pb for the creation of electron emitting regions.

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Because Fujii does not teach each and every limitation of claim 10, the applicants respectfully maintain that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii is unfounded, per MPEP 2142.

The Office action rejects:

claims 11 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii and Yudasaka;
claims 13 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii and Hu;
claims 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii and the applicants' admitted prior art (hereinafter AAPA).

The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In each of these rejections, the Office action relies upon Fujii for teaching the elements of claim 10, upon which each of these rejected claims depends.

Because, as noted above, Fujii does not teach each and every limitation of claim 10, the applicants respectfully maintain that the rejections of claims 11, 13, and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), which rely on Fujii for teaching the elements of claim 10, are unfounded, per MPEP 2142.

The Office action rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii and Sturm. The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 17 is dependent upon claim 6, which is dependent upon claim 1. The Office action fails to show that Fujii and/or Sturm teach any of the elements of claims 1 and 6, and therefore fails to establish a prima facie case to support this rejection.

The Office action rejects claims 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii and the applicants' admitted prior art (hereinafter AAPA).

Claim 26, upon which claims 27-28 depend, claims a method of manufacturing an electroluminescent device that includes ink-jet printing a selection layer that facilitates selective depositing of a metal or metal alloy and applying the metal or metal alloy.

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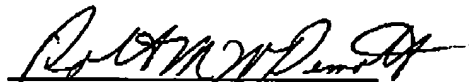
Neither Fujii nor AAPA teach or suggest ink-jet printing a selection layer that facilitates selective depositing of a metal or metal alloy and applying the metal or metal alloy.

As noted above, Fujii teaches using ink-jet printing for depositing droplets of an aqueous organic Pb solution. The applicants further note that AAPA merely recites that "activation layers and inks for preparing such activation layers are well known in the art", and is silent with regard to ink-jet printing such layers or inks.

Because both Fujii and AAPA fail to teach ink-jet printing a selection layer that facilitates selective depositing of a metal or metal alloy and applying the metal or metal alloy, as specifically claimed in claim 26, the applicants respectfully maintain that the rejection of claims 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii and AAPA is unfounded, per MPEP 2142.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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